

Application No.: 10/708,924
Amendment dated 1/22/2006
Reply to Office Action of 1/6/06

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently amended): An anti-spray, spray containment terminus for an aquarium airlift tube (in which upward water flow is created by the combination of a tube and the natural buoyancy of aeration bubbles) that performs the dual purpose of preventing the escape of aeration bubbles from the airlift tube and anti-spray terminus assembly, and a means for preventing the spray of fluids resulting from the implosion of the contained aeration bubbles from escaping from the said anti-spray terminus, without the need for any filtering materials or water pump in order to contain the spray. ~~The anti-spray terminus of Claim 1 wherein~~ Wherein the aeration bubbles are removed from the water flow by the means of an inner and outer cylindrical tube, that achieve the purpose of channeling the upward water flow from an aquarium airlift tube to a downward direction, an upper air baffle that allows free passage of air while at the same time intercepting the passage of spray and an exit jet that has been placed beneath the water surface deeply enough, so that the natural buoyancy of the aeration bubbles will have counteracted the velocity of the downward flowing water sufficiently to allow the aeration bubbles to be contained.

Claim 3 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 2 wherein the said upper air baffle is comprised of a series of stacked, sequential opposing shelves, each shelf of which does not completely reach from one side to the other, the said shelves of which have been separated from each other sufficiently in order to allow airflow between them and on only one side of each opposing shelf, the airflow path of which alternates from side to side.

Claim 4 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 3 wherein the shelves of the air baffle have been provided with aligned holes to allow for the insertion of airline tubing.

Claim 5 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 4 wherein the air baffle has been formed into two interlocking pieces by attaching the stacked, sequential shelves to two half cylindrical shells with female matching indentations formed into the sides of the half cylindrical shells in order to accept the exposed male portions of the opposing stacked, sequential shelves on the matching piece.

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Listing of Claims-continued:

Claim 6 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 2 wherein the exiting jet of water is diverted through a four sided channel, the vertical walls of which flare outwards to disperse the exiting jet of water over a wider area.

Claim 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 2 that has been made height adjustable by threading the said inner cylindrical tube, and which subsequently screws onto a short cylindrical tube that has been threaded with matching male or female threads that has been compression fit onto the top of a standard airlift tube.

Claim 9 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 2 that has been turned into a stand alone unit by the addition of a base that serves the dual function of providing opening(s) for the flow of water, and also elevating the upper structure sufficiently to allow space for the opening(s) to allow the upward flow of water into the said inner cylindrical tube.

Claim 10 (Original): The anti-spray terminus of Claim 9 wherein the exiting jet of water is diverted through an extended riser(s) to force freshly aerated water to take a longer path before being recirculated.